

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V
INITIAL POLREP

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



DATE: May 19, 1994

FROM: William Simes, OSC, U.S. EPA, Region V, Chicago

TO: R. Karl, EERB, (EPA 9538), FAX 312-353-9176
J. Cisneros, ESS, FAX 312-353-9176
F. Rollins, Chief, Emerg. Resp. Sect. 3, 312-353-9176
T. Johnson, Wash, D.C. (EPA 5511) FAX 703-603-9107
U.S. Coast Guard, District 9, FAX 216-522-3261
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IN, 812-334-4273
Ralph Luke, IDEN, Emerg. Resp., FAX 317-233-6358

SUBJECT: Salesian Prep, Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana

POLREP: POLREP 1

Delivery Order No: None
Response Authority: CERCLA
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Latitude/Longitude: 41°23'28" / 87°25'28"
Time Period: May 17, 1994

1. SITUATION:

WEATHER: Cool, clear, light to moderate wind,
temperatures in the 60's.

Salesian Prep is an abandoned preparatory high school in Cedar Lake, Lake County, Indiana. The buildings are not secured and have been vandalized. Chemicals located in the school's chemistry lab were fired at by armed vandals. Red phosphorus, a highly reactive chemical was spilled outside the building.

On May 17, 1994 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) William Simes and three members of the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) mobilized to site to perform hazard categorization of chemicals, bulk compatible materials, and neutralize the chemical threats to public health and the environment. The owners of the property were unknown and could not be contacted. Upon arrival OSC met with representatives from the county, state, police department, and the fire department. The police searched and secured the area before site work began.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

On May 17, over fifty containers of acids, bases, and typical laboratory chemicals were neutralized on-site using both water, and sodium hydroxide solutions. Two gallons of non-chlorinated flammable material were treated on site. Four U.S. Army issue water reactive signal flares were located, moved to a staging area, and discharged.

One container labeled "Pure Asbestos" was found on site. The

container was brought off site to secure storage, and will be shipped for proper disposal in the near future.

3. FUTURE PLANS:

All site work is complete. The container of suspected asbestos containing material will be disposed of properly. A summary report of field activities will be produced.

4. KEY ISSUES:

Proper care will be taken in handling and storage of suspected asbestos containing material until shipment for disposal can be arranged.

5. STATUS:

A. Case closed.

B. Estimated cost through 05-18-94

TAT COSTS:	3,685.00
<u>U.S. EPA COSTS:</u>	<u>620.00</u>
PROJECT TOTAL	4,305.00